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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Livestock Commission

OF THE

STATE OF MONTANA

THE LIBRARY OF THE

JUL 18 1925

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

FOR THE YEAR

1921

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The Livestock Commission

OF THE

STATE OF MONTANA

JOHN H. BURKE, President.....	Helena
H. B. MITCHELL, Vice-President.....	Great Falls
PERCY WILLIAMSON.....	Miles City
D. W. RAYMOND.....	Jeffers
J. E. MORSE.....	Dillon
L. B. TAYLOR.....	Chinook
E. A. PHILLIPS, Secretary.....	Helena

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

Honorable Joseph M. Dixon,
Governor of the State of Montana,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I hand you herewith report of the Livestock Commission
for the period from January 1, 1921, to January 1, 1922.

Respectfully submitted,

E. A. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MONTANA LIVESTOCK COMMISSON.

The Livestock Commission held four meetings in the office at Helena in 1921, during the course of which, in addition to the handling and disposing of all regular and routine business, claims for advertised estrays were considered and passed upon. All claims against the Langhorne House Account were investigated and ordered paid.

At the hearing on livestock rates, held at Chicago in June, before a representative of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Livestock Commission was represented by Mr. J. H. Burke, whose testimony presented from the viewpoint of the western shipper, included valuable facts and figures that were no doubt instrumental in gaining the favorable decision announced. A reduction of approximately 20% on livestock rates, was announced by the roads to be effective from September 26th, until January 1st. Shortly before the expiration of the time limit the period of effectiveness was extended to June 30th. The Livestock Commission desires to express its appreciation of the help given in this case by the Montana Railroad Commission, whose Attorney was also in attendance at the hearing and to the Department of Agriculture for statistics and figures furnished.

The Interstate Commerce Commission held a hearing in Helena on August 19th, at which time objections to the present rates on wool consigned to eastern points were heard. At this time no decision of this case had been announced.

The new law authorizing the Livestock Commission to receive from the railroads, pay for all stock, of unknown ownership, killed by trains, is operating satisfactorily. During the year 1921, the Commission was paid for fifty-nine head of cattle and horses, descriptions of which, with those of all other stock held, will be advertised in the annual advertised estray list.

The Seventeenth Legislative Assembly of 1921, passed a law requiring owners of all brands recorded prior to January 1st, 1921, to rerecord such brands during the year 1921. The fee set for making the new record was twenty-five cents (25c) for each brand. The work required to carry out the provisions of this act was great, and the expense of administering it was heavy. Owing to the rush of applications during the month of December, the office force was unable to handle them as fast as they were received, so that on January 1st there were fifteen thousand

such applications on hand. It is estimated that forty-five thousand brands will have been rerecorded when this work is completed. The brand records will then be up to date and at the same time, there will be available for new record, a great number of good brands that were released through failure to rerecord. This will be a very satisfactory condition, both to this office and to applicants for new brands, for desirable new brands have not been available for several years. The fees received will just about pay the expense of the operation.

The Commission has in mind some new legislation and some changes in present laws that it is hoped will have favorable consideration by the next assembly. This subject will be dealt with more fully in the 1922 report.

The cost of operating the Livestock Commission for 1921 was \$74,084.15. This figure is approximately twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000) less than was spent in 1920 and had it not been for the rerecord law which has cost to date \$5,771.44, this amount would also have been deducted from the total operating cost. However, it should be remembered that the rerecord law will pay its own way.

In 1921, a total of 3,943 new brands were recorded. The fees charged for making the records were \$7,886.00, which amount has been deposited with the State Treasurer for the credit of the Livestock Commission fund.

Month	Number Brands Recorded	Receipts
January	204	\$ 408.00
February	163	326.00
March	170	340.00
April	369	738.00
May	398	796.00
June	423	846.00
July	352	704.00
August	277	554.00
September	302	604.00
October	414	828.00
November	361	722.00
December	510	1,020.00
Totals	3,943	\$7,886.00

During the year 1921, Montana exported 147,413 cattle. Out of this total 109,465 head were marketed at eastern points where the Commission maintains Brand Inspectors. The balance, 37,948 head, were shipped principally to western market points. The following figures indicate the number of Montana cattle sold at the principal eastern markets during the year 1921.

Market	Number
Chicago	69,415
Omaha	27,916
St. Paul	10,408
Sioux City	614
St. Joseph	1,112
Total	109,465

The table found below gives information as to the total number of cattle shipped out of Montana for the years from 1885 to 1921:

Year	Output	Year	Output	Year	Output
1885.....	79,089	1897.....	252,162	1909.....	255,178
1886.....	119,620	1898.....	232,225	1910.....	243,662
1887.....	82,134	1899.....	203,499	1911.....	205,873
1888.....	167,602	1900.....	160,055	1912.....	188,675
1889.....	123,880	1901.....	151,986	1913.....	172,299
1890.....	174,035	1902.....	230,000	1914.....	158,623
1891.....	250,000	1903.....	210,573	1915.....	173,936
1892.....	203,000	1904.....	288,775	1916.....	227,828
1893.....	279,158	1905.....	267,966	1917.....	333,056
1894.....	302,655	1906.....	276,722	1918.....	406,415
1895.....	206,460	1907.....	214,642	1919.....	641,337
1896.....	254,864	1908.....	241,320	1920.....	211,242
				1921.....	147,413

The figures presented here indicate the total amount of money and the number of head of cattle and horses handled through this office during the past year:

Total amount received by the Commission from the sale of strays during the year 1920.....		\$93,863.08
Total amount of 1921 stray claims adjusted during the year	\$80,094.44	
Total amount stray claims pending settlement, December 31, 1921	13,768.64	
	<u>\$93,863.08</u>	<u>\$93,863.08</u>
Total number strays, the proceeds of which were sent to the Commission during the year.....		2,174
Total number of head, claims for which have been adjusted during the year	1,808	
Total number head, claims pending settlement, December 31, 1921	366	
	<u>2,174</u>	<u>2,174</u>

The following tables, pertaining to assessed livestock valuation will be found of interest and were compiled by the Board of Equalization. As explained in the Commission report for the year 1919, the great increase shown in the valuation for 1919 over 1918 is due to a change in the method of figuring taxation. In 1919 all property was assessed at its true value and the basis for the imposition of the tax was some certain percentage of that value. In the case of livestock this basis was 33 1-3%. If the method used in 1918 had been continued in 1921, the valuation for 1921 would have been \$25,472,489.00.

Assessed Valuation of Livestock		Value
Year	Total	
1915	Total	\$ 46,235,493.00
1916	"	52,384,484.00
1917	"	65,585,652.00
1918	"	75,000,516.00
1919	"	157,501,960.00
1920	"	108,841,802.00
1921	"	76,417,469.00

The livestock census of Montana for 1921, as shown by the assessment lists, is found in the following tables:

	1920	1921		
	No. Head	No. Head	Gain	Loss
Cattle (all classes)	972,146	983,904	11,798	
Sheep (all classes)	1,799,763	1,717,114		82,649
Horses (all classes)	525,047	523,895		1,152
Hogs (all classes)	55,447	47,521		7,926
Total assessed livestock valuation 1920			\$108,841,802.00	
Total assessed livestock valuation 1921			76,417,469.00	
Decrease 1921 over 1920			\$ 32,424,333.00	

County	Horses	Cattle	Sheep	Swine
Beaverhead	12,609	60,254	154,327	474
Big Horn	8,305	52,275	6,387	1,542
Blaine	18,851	33,348	94,486	286
Broadwater	4,679	12,202	25,418	619
Carbon	9,438	17,949	17,241	1,895
Carter	11,140	20,682	71,322	536
Cascade	10,523	24,319	72,031	891
Chouteau	19,141	22,721	34,621	1,023
Custer	13,626	26,465	50,785	592
Daniels	9,642	8,155	3,758	509
Dawson	14,841	15,833	31,255	1,096
Deer Lodge	1,249	3,350	3,156	305
Fallon	10,147	12,792	9,643	707
Fergus	27,820	47,436	57,483	2,958
Flathead	6,627	13,808	3,838	983
Gallatin	12,379	22,153	14,189	1,697
Garfield	16,168	19,546	65,357	653
Glacier	5,810	13,716	15,198	65
Golden Valley	6,321	11,100	8,229	740
Granite	3,609	11,131	11,989	358
Hill	14,085	11,372	9,672	538
Jefferson	4,183	13,320	3,873	---
Judith Basin	8,774	22,014	28,787	1,386
Lewis & Clark	5,760	26,338	57,367	1,030
Liberty	4,361	3,693	5,978	38
Lincoln	1,896	2,747	75	218
McCone	16,422	12,642	11,097	452
Madison	9,933	35,562	115,244	1,613
Meagher	5,311	21,432	103,929	460
Mineral	647	745	50	---
Missoula	6,055	10,336	3,987	1,680
Musselshell	7,511	13,242	9,229	1,292
Park	7,925	21,983	4,823	1,717
Phillips	20,859	23,855	58,668	407
Pondera	9,490	8,359	9,669	690
Powder River	13,842	47,637	29,208	951
Powell	4,030	13,109	69,979	242
Prairie	11,753	12,684	21,660	685
Ravalli	5,851	20,455	19,968	2,946
Richmond	16,341	16,815	1,543	833
Roosevelt	9,650	11,546	2,496	500
Rosebud	10,239	21,424	77,147	558
Sanders	3,261	9,475	6,029	334
Sheridan	13,924	14,277	5,181	978
Silver Bow	2,172	2,284	4,596	894
Stillwater	6,977	18,399	27,625	1,731
Sweetgrass	5,657	19,126	56,723	1,436
Teton	10,519	15,350	25,989	---
Toole	6,977	5,601	19,135	212
Treasure	4,012	6,810	13,988	545
Valley	22,478	19,373	49,219	726
Wheatland	6,298	20,474	52,584	949
Wibaux	7,038	8,229	1,900	669
Yellowstone	41,105	23,941	38,567	2,882
Total	523,895	983,904	1,717,114	47,521

ASSESSED VALUATION FOR 1921.

Horses—			
	Number	Average	Value
Full blood	2,470	\$220.34	\$ 544,246
Range	280,692	24.59	6,902,152
Ranch and work	240,733	72.58	17,474,292
	523,895	\$ 47.58	\$24,920,690
Cattle—			
Pure bred	10,436	\$134.00	\$ 1,398,431
Yearlings	209,140	20.66	4,322,764
Two year olds	206,013	31.56	6,502,161
Three year olds and over	74,249	56.11	4,165,838
Stock	425,146	46.68	19,845,820
Dairy	49,230	77.48	3,814,666
Beef cattle	9,690	55.22	535,169
	983,904	\$ 41.25	\$40,584,849
Sheep—			
Bucks	21,074	\$ 11.79	\$ 248,588
Yearlings	307,154	5.01	1,539,214
Two year olds and over	1,388,886	6.16	8,554,248
	1,717,114	\$ 6.02	\$10,342,050
Swine—	47,521	\$ 10.62	\$ 504,552
Miscellaneous—			
Poultry, bees, etc.			\$ 65,328

The following tables are submitted for comparison:

1917			
Cattle—			
	Number	Average	Value
Pure bred	6,496	\$ 58.73	
Yearlings	162,610	16.97	
Twos	112,448	25.18	
Threes and beef	50,756	36.53	
Stock cattle	689,087	46.57	
Dairy cows	28,768	39.09	
	1,059,165		
1918			
Cattle—			
	Number	Average	Value
Pure bred	5,801	\$ 77.03	
Yearlings	184,674	16.61	
Twos	118,987	25.51	
Threes and beef	70,317	41.42	
Stock cattle	726,183	51.22	
Dairy cows	16,837	47.04	
	1,123,799		
1919			
Cattle—			
	Number	Average	Value
Pure bred	12,899	\$135.85	
Yearlings	212,029	40.74	
Twos	142,008	62.17	
Threes and beef	73,350	106.24	
Stock cattle	743,193	75.08	
Dairy cows	46,378	86.12	
	1,229,655		
1920			
Cattle—			
	Number	Average	Value
Pure bred	10,613	\$151.45	
Yearlings	239,961	30.96	
Twos	197,240	47.00	
Threes and beef	69,457	76.15	
Stock cattle	406,636	65.50	
Dairy cows	49,139	88.21	
	972,146		
Sheep—			
	Number	Average	Value
1917	2,177,448	\$ 5.45	
1918	1,888,844	8.36	
1919	2,159,566	12.45	
1920	1,799,763	11.09	

Corresponding figures for 1921 are to be found in the preceeding table.

An examination of the plat immediately following will impress the reader with the magnitude and scope of the work done by the Inspectors of the Livestock Commission:

INSPECTOR	Address	Time Months.....	Cattle Inspected West.....	Cattle Inspected to Points Within State....	Cattle to All Other Points.....	Horses to Points In State.....	Horses to Points Out of State.....	Strays Sold.....	Strays Recovered for Owners.....	Hides Inspected, Stock Killed by Railroads.....
Blackmon, T. L.	Wolf Point	12	3	79	172	481	1,464	7	193	.....
Brannin, Ed.	Melville	3	22	743	.....	5	18	.....	14	.....
Collins, J. W.	Butte	12	6,772	13,303	1,662	63	229	15	55	.....
Erwin, D. V.	Dillon	12	3,508	3,348	.....	24	25	.....	33*	.....
Hetherline, L. G.	Plains	12	1,528	690	.....	124	59	8	25	209
Herford, J. B.	Billings	13	.....	3,127	7,131	243	303	5	82**	.....
Hightower, J. W.	Great Falls	12	206	2,217	.....	177	186	13	115	167
Hitchcock, Font	Miles City	12	.....	1,110	31	257	782	2	31	37
Laswell, J. Q.	Chinook	8	393	153	.....	72	93	.....	47	.....
Lavigne, F. C. (Chief)	Helena	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Levell, Wm.	Dillon	9 1/2	6,313	1,500	17	65	511	2	54	.....
McCann, Leslie	Lewistown	12	.....	505	10	161	148	1	129	.....
Miller, J. A.	Glendive	3	.....	.....	.....	16	41	.....	3	.....
Parks, W. F.	Baker	12	5	32	45	72	602	4	59	.....
Ritchardson, W. A.	Bozeman	12	707	2,093	19	280	250	5	74	.....
Sellars, A. R.	Cut Bank	12	1,263	201	20	152	226	2	206	.....
Sims, C. W.	Havre	4	5	57	19	44	286	.....	5	.....
Deputy Inspectors	.....	.....	4,298	10,006	3,790	1,030	2,019	.....	35	.....
Totals	.....	.....	25,023	36,664	12,925	3,266	7,232	68	1,160	510

*Inspector Erwin recovered 240 sheep.

**Inspector Herford recovered 10 sheep.

Stock Inspectors.

During the year just ended, Stock Inspectors travelled 75,127 miles on railroads, 56,852 miles in automobiles, 8,286 miles on horseback and 366 miles in horse drawn vehicles and on foot, in the discharge of their duties and inspected 83,527 head of cattle and 10,565 head of horses. In addition to this, 1,151 Butcher Reports were examined, and 837 Bounty claims checked. The Inspectors have, in a number of instances, adjusted the disputed ownership of stock satisfactorily and made investigations in minor infractions, done either from lack of knowledge of the law, or a misunderstanding of its application. Together with checking up hundreds of licenses, public markets, and handling estrays.

Arrests and Convictions.

A total of 210 arrests were made by Stock Inspectors during the past year for violations of the livestock laws. Of this number 104 were convicted, 36 cases were dismissed or acquitted and 70 cases are still awaiting trial, \$1,690.50 in fines were imposed in justice court cases.

Losses and Recoveries.

During the year just ended, livestock to the approximate value of \$188,205.00 was reported stolen or missing. Of this amount livestock to the approximate value of \$49,844.00 was returned by stock inspectors to their rightful owners.

In one large theft of 157 head of cattle, all of them were recovered for the owner and the thief arrested, prosecuted and convicted.

In the list of large thefts committed at one time are enumerated:

- 30 head of cattle in Roosevelt county.
- 600 head of sheep in Beaverhead county.
- 157 head of cattle in Liberty county.
- 25 head of cattle in Gallatin county.
- 40 head of horses in Hill county.
- 16 head of cattle in Flathead county.
- 150 head of sheep in Valley county.
- 39 head of sheep in Lewis and Clark county.
- 17 head of horses in Gallatin county.

A total of 2,282 head of cattle, 2,103 head of horses and 1,214 head of sheep were reported stolen or missing.

Extradition Proceeding.

During the past year there have been several cases wherein the "Rustlers" eluded arrest for the time being by going to Texas, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington and

Canada. As a result of the efforts made in this direction, all fugitives were returned and prosecuted, or are awaiting trial.

One American citizen was returned to Canada, tried in the Canadian courts, convicted and received a sentence of eight years for stealing Canadian cattle.

Arrests.....	5	2	2	8,932	4,693	35	14	319	231	244	98	41	151				\$	225.00
Convictions.....	35	21	10	6,326	3,462	894	58	20	13	3	22	37						130.50
Cases Pending.....	9	8	2	6,003	3,447	172		25		3	18							100.00
Miles on Railroad.....	8	2	5	4,002	3,848	4				3	19	310						25.00
Miles Auto.....	6	3	1	2,886	6,087	209	22			70	27							
Miles Horse Back.....	3	3		3,057	6,867	25		77	49									
Miles Vehicles and on Foot.....	3	3		4,377	4,877	497		141	58									
Butcher Reports.....	20	14	2	7,186	4,377	170		32	76	56	2	44	30					
Bounty Claims.....	3	1	2	1,830	4,337	235		23	91	78	29	28	182					230.00
Cattle Stolen.....	6	2	3	3,659	2,593			28	7	9	5	11	24					
Hogs Missing.....	2			1,949	2,367			12	28	7		11	24					
Cattle Missing.....	41	29	7	17,130	3,192	83	62	244	16	124	167	86	172	150	29			180.00
Horses Missing.....	6	2	3	1,072	718			9		7	22	8	16					
Sheep Recovered.....	11	3	8	3,928	5,287	703	98	61	99	31	95	459	99					175.00
Sheep Missing.....	7	1	2	2,217	3,185	1,439	18	29	62	98	45	44	265					250.00
Fines Imposed.....	7	7	7	3,680	5,168	1,409		40	8	82	71	56	18					375.00
	32	11	8	4,666	6,512	2,355	84	57	53	295	44	39	22					
	9	1	8	1,644	3,329	10	10	5	29	32	5	86	22					
Totals	210	104	70	75,127	56,852	8,286	366	1,151	837	1,092	782	1,190	1,321	750	289		\$1,690.50	

Bounties.

Claims filed and paid for bounty in 1921 greatly exceed those of either of the preceeding two years. The department has endeavored to ascertain the cause for the sharp increase, and it is the belief that it is a legitimate growth that can for the most part, be laid to the stringent times. In other words, people who heretofore have killed predatory animals and neglected to file claim for the bounty due, are now not overlooking this source of income. A very determined effort to detect the filing of fraudulent claims has been made without success. This department will continue its vigilance and with the application of new methods to be used in handling these claims, it will not be possible to work the bounty fund.

Money Paid Out of Bounty Fund in 1921.

January	\$ 1,149.35
February	2,539.57
March	4,417.25
April	5,358.25
May	4,624.40
June	8,526.30
July	251.40
August	13,517.65
September	8,084.75
October	4,792.65
November	1,894.45
December	2,090.00
Total	<u>\$57,246.22</u>

It is customary to include legislative recommendations in the annual report, but since the 1922 report of this department will be published during the next legislature, this subject will not be touched upon at this time.



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